



Girl Guide Connections

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August 2019

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Dear

Welcome to the second edition of '**Girl Guide Connections**'! Since the launch of our public newsletter last month, hundreds of our members have been continuing to undertake adventures and expeditions near and far. You can read about some of these in the [news section of our website](#).

We are delighted to announce our **new Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) Annemarie Harte and to welcome her to Irish Girl Guides.

Annemarie has extensive experience in senior positions with representative groups such as CEO of Hardware Association Ireland (2014-2019), Secretary/CEO of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (2007-2013) and Manager/Chief Executive of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Chamber of Commerce (2005-2007).



Annemarie, who has fond memories of her time as a Brownie in Adelaide Road, Dublin, looks forward to working with volunteers to support them in their roles as Leaders. She will also work to develop the staff team and believes that 'giving girls confidence' is more important than ever in a world where diversity and leadership is in short supply.

You can read more about Annemarie's background and experience on the [IGG website](#).



A special congratulations to our 12 brave members who undertook the **Explorer Belt** - Guiding's ultimate outdoor challenge! Hiking 180 kilometres in 10 days and

completing a series of projects while carrying all your camping and cooking gear as well as clothes, food and water is no mean feat. Doing all this without a phone while living on a budget of €3.25 a day is surely a huge achievement!

Not knowing the location of the event until you reach the airport doesn't make it any easier! This summer's event took place in the Flanders Fields area of the Flemish Westhoek region in Belgium. Talking to the local people and exploring the area gave the 12 adventurers an insight into the First World War and how it impacts the region to this day.

Reading Anna Higgins and Helen O'Reilly's blog posts gives a great insight into what it is like to undertake such a challenge, so take a few minutes to read their inspiring stories in [the news section of our website](#). You can see lots of photos on [Facebook](#).

Kinsale and Macroom Senior Branch members attended a large Guide camp called **Charnwood** in Leicestershire. They did a great job keeping their spirits up despite the wind, the rain and the mud and look who turned up in the rain to support them - Bear Grylls! You can read all about their soggy camp experience [here](#).





To mark the **Senior Branch Centenary**, last week 50 of our Senior Branch members and Leaders travelled to Sangam, the Guide World Centre in Pune, India. They are experiencing the local culture, learning about Guiding at a global level and carrying out service projects in the local community. One of their tasks is to consider how India recycles waste and reduces plastic packaging. They will use this information on their return home to develop a badge about Sustainable Development Goal 12 - Responsible Consumerism. They will first pilot the curriculum and then provide training for Leaders so that the badge will be available in 2020 to all members. The badge development and training is supported by Irish Aid funding.

You can follow the group's adventures on the [Senior Branch Facebook page](#).

As our members progress through the branches, the opportunity to camp, to travel overseas and to experience different cultures beckons.

We were delighted to develop a **Europe badge** with European Movement Ireland recently.



Launching the badge in May, **Minister of State for European Affairs Helen McEntee** said that earning the badge would help girls and young women gain an understanding of the European Union (EU) and how it affects the lives of Irish citizens.

Our members love the opportunity to try new activities in a safe learning environment and we are delighted that, since May, 577 girls have already earned their Europe badge!

The picture above shows Minister McEntee with members from Banagher, Co. Offaly displaying the three Europe badges at the launch which was held in Iveagh House, Stephen's Green on Europe Day.

Four of our members, including our new **International Commissioner Jenna Goodwin**, will head to Split in Croatia this weekend to take part in the **16th European Guide and Scout Conference**. Together with four members of the Catholic Guides of Ireland (CGI), Jenna, Amanda O'Sullivan, Jenny Gannon and Dara Callanan, will represent the Council of Irish Guiding Associations (CIGA).



The theme of the conference is **'Unite, Thrive, Grow'** and the aim is to develop regional strategies and work together to promote and expand Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting within the Europe Region and in its member organisations (MOs). During the event MOs will share best practices, learn from each other and make new connections.

IGG delegates are looking forward to presenting on our new partnerships with external organisations and the reciprocal benefits for all involved.

We will focus on our most recent partnerships with **Trocaire, European Movement Ireland, Aer Lingus** and **Engineers Ireland**.



You can keep in touch with their progress and **follow all of our latest news on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).**

Yours in Guiding,
Fiona Murdoch
Communications Officer
Irish Girl Guides

What we do The **Irish Girl Guides** began in 1911 and continues today, as a registered charity, to offer girls and young women a safe space to develop life skills while exploring our inter-connected world and learning to become responsible global citizens. Learn more [here](#).



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